Vaccine 101 Presenter Notes

Slide 1: Hello! My name is **** and I am [part of the NCDHHS COVID-19 Response Team or with ******* organization]

We're here to share important information about how to get your COVID-19 vaccine. We also want to make sure we have time to hear and answer as many of your questions as possible. We encourage folks to use the chat box to ask their questions and we'll be trying to answer as many as we go during the presentation but will also have some time at the end for questions as well.

Slide 2: Pfizer was approved for use by the FDA in May 2021 for teens ages 12+. Everyone ages 12+ is eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccine is free to everyone.

We want to talk about what you need to know in order to get a safe and effective vaccine for you and your family – and encourage others to get vaccinated.

Slide 3: Millions of people in North Carolina have taken their shot against COVID-19. For current data on our vaccine efforts, view our dashboard:covid19.ncdhhs.gov/dashboard/vaccinations

Slide 5: Let's begin with these important key points:

Don't wait to protect yourself – get vaccinated!

- Nearly all new COVID-19 cases are in people who are not fully vaccinated.
- Unvaccinated people are vulnerable to the more contagious and dangerous Delta variant of COVID-19 that is spreading across North Carolina.
- Places with low vaccination rates are seeing increased COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths. Younger people are making up most of the cases.
- Even if you have a mild case of COVID-19, you may struggle with long-term effects like shortness of breath, chest pain, and brain fog.
- All of these are preventable with vaccination.
- Serious side effects from COVID-19 vaccines are extremely rare, temporary and treatable.
- Most people just experience a sore arm, a headache and feeling tired and achy for day or two.

- Rigorous clinical trials with thousands of people aged 12 and over, and experience with COVID-19 vaccination among hundreds of millions of diverse Americans, have shown that they are safe and effective—even against the dangerous Delta variant.

Slide 6: Tested, safe and effective, COVID-19 vaccines will help us get back in control of our lives and back to the people and places we love.

- Scientists had a head start, and thousands of volunteers helped with clinical trials.
- All of the vaccines are tested, safe and effective and preventing COVID-19, hospitalization and death.
- You cannot get COVID-19 from the vaccine.
- The vaccines are free to all regardless of your insurance or immigration status.
- After you are fully vaccinated, you can get back to activities like gathering with other vaccinated friends and family without masks.

Slide 7: Let's start with the basics about the vaccines.

You cannot get COVID-19 from the vaccine. The way vaccines work by safely increasing your body's natural ability to fight the virus before the virus attacks you.

Here is how the COVID-19 vaccines work:
Vaccines imitate COVID without giving it to you. After you get the vaccine, the vaccine gives your body instructions to make a protein that safely teaches your body to make an antibody to fight the real COVID-19. Your body naturally breaks down or destroys the protein from the vaccine. [Presenter note: This is the spike protein]

With these antibodies, you can fight off the real virus if it tries to attack you.

[If asked if there is a tracker in the vaccine]
There is no tracker in the vaccine.

[If asked whether you can get the vaccine even if you've had COVID before]
Yes. The vaccine works to protect you against a future infection. You don't need a COVID-19 test before vaccination. It is safe to get vaccinated with any authorized COVID-19 vaccine if you have been infected in the past.

[If asked how long the vaccine will protect you from COVID-19]
Data so far shows that there is still very high protection levels for at least 6 months after the vaccine. Because of the high level of protection at 6 months, the protection will likely last

longer. We'll know even more about how long the immunity from the vaccines lasts as people have been vaccinated for a longer period of time.

Slide 8: Vaccines are available to all—for free.

- The vaccines are free to everyone, even if you don't have health insurance.
- You do not need a government-issued form of identification to receive a vaccine.
- Some vaccine providers may ask for a way to confirm your identity, so bring an item with your name on it (utility bill, faith ID, work badge, passport, matrícula consular, credit union member card, etc.). **You should not be turned away if you don't have photo identification.**

[If asked who is paying for the vaccine]:
The federal government is buying the vaccine for everyone.

[If asked whether there is a copay]:
No vaccine provider should be charging anyone to receive the vaccine. Patients who get the vaccine while having an appointment for another reason, such as a medical check-up, may be charged for the check-up depending on their insurance. Providers administering the vaccine to people without health insurance or whose insurance does not provide coverage of the vaccine can request reimbursement for the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine through the Provider Relief Fund, see https://www.hrsa.gov/CovidUninsuredClaim.

Slide 9: Your privacy and personal information are protected at all times.

- Nothing in the vaccine can be tracked—the protein your body makes cannot be tracked and it disappears after it finishes making you stronger.
- Personal information about your vaccination and health are protected at all times.
- We do not send any personal information to the CDC or ICE. Everyone can be vaccinated, regardless of their immigration status, and getting vaccinated will not affect your immigration status.

[If asked about what data is collected:]

NC CVMS is a system that enables the collection of immunization information for health and safety reasons. The immunization information collected is similar to the information that is required when you go to the doctor's office or a pharmacy for a vaccination, including your name, address, date of birth, location where vaccine was given, when the vaccine was given, person who administered the vaccine, information about the specific vaccine vial (expiration

date, vaccine identifier number, etc.) and how the vaccine was given (e.g., in the muscle of the right arm). NC CVMS also collects information about race and ethnicity, which is necessary to support efforts for equitable vaccine distribution in NC.

To meet federal requirements established by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and in accordance with NC state law, NC is currently submitting the vaccine recipient's year of birth (not date of birth), the first three digits of the vaccine recipient's zip code of residence (if the underlying population in that zip code includes more than 20,000 people) and the date of submission of the vaccination record. More information about federal CDC data requirements is available at: https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/reporting/requirements/index.html.

Slide 10: The best vaccine is the first one available to you—all are tested, safe, and effective and the FDA continues to monitor vaccine safety.

All available vaccines are extremely effective in preventing hospitalization and death caused by COVID-19 with no serious safety concerns.

The Pfizer vaccine is approved for people age ***12 and older, while the Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are approved for adults age 18 and older.

[More detail]
The vaccines were built on decades of previous work on similar vaccines. The vaccines were tested at different times and in different places. When and where the vaccines were tested makes it hard to compare the results. Comparing their success rates is like comparing apples to oranges. The bottom line is that all available vaccines are extremely effective in preventing hospitalization and death caused by COVID-19.

[In case of questions about J&J and Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS)]:
The Food and Drug Administration says that there have been very rare cases of Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) after receiving Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine. Most cases have been reported about two weeks after vaccination and mostly in males, many aged 50 and older.

- GBS is a neurological disorder usually triggered by a respiratory or gastrointestinal infection that most people fully recover from. The body's immune system damages nerve cells, causing muscle weakness and sometimes paralysis in severe cases.

- Of the 12.8 million doses of Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine administered in the U.S. (roughly 8% of all COVID-19 vaccines), around 100 preliminary cases (less than .0008%) of GBS have been possibly linked to the Johnson & Johnson vaccine in the U.S.

- Over 90% of North Carolinians vaccinated have received either the mRNA-based Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccines. Pfizer and Moderna are different from the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, and have not seen the same increased risk of GBS.

- With COVID-19 cases rising, the best way to protect your health is to get a COVID-19 vaccine**.** Unvaccinated people run the highest risk of severe illness, hospitalization, long-term COVID-19 symptoms, and death.

- Thorough clinical trials with thousands of participants have proven that the Pfizer vaccine is safe and effective for anyone 12 years and older. The Moderna vaccine has proven safe and effective for those 18 years and older. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is still safe and effective, and remains the only one-dose option approved for those 18 years and older. If you have received the J&J vaccine, you are still protected and severe adverse effects are extremely rare.

[In case of questions about J&J blood clots or 'pause' in use]:
Out of an abundance of caution, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recommended a pause in the use of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine. After a brief pause and careful investigation, the CDC and FDA recommend resuming the use of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine to prevent serious illness, hospitalization and death from COVID-19. Following this guidance, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services has recommended that North Carolina vaccine providers resume the use of Johnson & Johnson vaccines now that their safety has been reaffirmed.

- At the time of the recommended pause, there were six reported cases of a rare type of blood clot in individuals after receiving the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine. It is important to remember that this potential reaction is very rare—less than one person in 1 million.

- The pause on the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine means the vaccine safety system is working as it should. Our safety monitoring system is very thorough, which is how these extremely rare events were identified.

Slide 11: Can I get the vaccine if I am pregnant or breastfeeding?

- Yes. Pregnant and breastfeeding women can receive any of the available COVID-19 vaccines.

- Pregnant women with COVID-19 have a higher risk of being hospitalized and needing care in the ICU as well as may have a higher risk of problems for the baby.

- Pregnant women can talk with their doctors about their vaccine decision. You can also consult MotherToBaby.org or call 1-866-626-6847

- Women who are breastfeeding can also receive any of the available vaccines. The vaccine is not thought to be a risk to a baby who is breastfeeding.

Slide 14: Can young people get the vaccine?

- Everyone age 12+ is currently eligible to receive a free COVID-19 vaccine. People ages 12 through 17 can only receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine.

- Nearly all new COVID-19 cases are in people who are not fully vaccinated. Younger people are making up most of the cases.

- Unvaccinated teens are vulnerable to the more contagious and dangerous Delta variant of COVID-19 that is spreading across North Carolina, increasing cases, hospitalizations and deaths.

- Even if your teen has a mild case of COVID-19, they may struggle with long-term effects like shortness of breath, chest pain, and brain fog.

- Getting vaccinated is the best way to protect teens and young adults from COVID-19, prevent the spread of the virus, and protect their family, friends and teachers.

- The best place to find out if a vaccine is currently approved for your child is **YourSpotYourShot.nc.gov**.

Slide 15: Do people who have had COVID-19 still need to be vaccinated?

- Yes. The vaccine works to protect you against a future infection. You don't need a COVID-19 test before vaccination.

- It is safe to get vaccinated with any of the authorized vaccines if you have been infected in the past.

- If you were treated for COVID-19 symptoms with monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma, you should wait 90 days before getting a COVID-19 vaccine. Talk to your doctor if you are unsure what treatments you received or if you have more questions about getting a COVID-19 vaccine.

- People who are actively sick with COVID-19 should wait until they have recovered and can no longer spread the virus before getting their vaccine.

Slide 16: **Here's a bit more clarification into the Emergency Use Authorization for COVID-19 vaccines:**

- In a public health emergency, manufacturing and approval of vaccines can be streamlined through an Emergency Use Authorization or EUA.

- An EUA does not affect vaccine safety, because it does not impact development, such as research, clinical studies and the studying of side effects and adverse reactions. Instead, it speeds up manufacturing and administrative processes.

- All vaccines follow the same testing processes, whether they are approved for emergency use or through a typical license.

Slide 17: Surveys have told us that MOST people in North Carolina want to get vaccinated against COVID-19, but many still have questions about the process.

Today, we are going to discuss the steps you need to take to get vaccinated against COVID-19:
- Finding a vaccine provider
- What to expect on the day of your vaccination and
- What you can do after you are vaccinated

Slide 20: One of the easiest places to start when looking for a vaccine appointment is our website: your spot your shot dot nc dot gov. Here, you can find a vaccine provider, AND learn more about the vaccines – and all of the information is also available in Spanish.

It is worth noting that many vaccine providers and locations are now taking walk-ins – meaning you don't need an appointment ahead of time to get vaccinated. Reach out to your local vaccine provider to find out if they offer walk-ins.

Slide 21: There are two ways that DHHS can help you find a vaccine appointment.

You can call the COVID-19 Vaccine Help Center. While they cannot currently schedule appointments, they can help you find vaccine locations near you and provide contact information for those locations.

You can also find a vaccine location online through Your Spot.

Slide 22: Some vaccine providers use their own system to schedule appointments.

Follow the steps indicated by the location you select to make your appointment.

Slide 24: Reverend Barber said: I took it today because I believe in the first principle of my tradition as a person of faith: I have to love my neighbor as myself.

Slide 25: This is our suggested checklist for your vaccination appointment day:

<u>Before Vaccination</u>
- Make a plan for how to get there – Do you need to arrange a ride? Did you let your employer know? Have you left enough travel time?

- Double-check your appointment time and location.
- If this is dose two, bring your vaccine card.

On Vaccination Day

- Wear a mask and wait 6 feet away from others.
- Drink fluids and eat something before you go.
- Wear a shirt that allows for access to your shoulder.
- Bring something with your name on it.
- If you have health insurance, bring your insurance card.
- Bring a book or phone since you will be monitored for 15-30 minutes after your vaccination.
- Schedule your second dose appointment, if needed.
- Bring a phone or camera to capture the moment!

Slide 26: If you need transportation to your appointment, help is available.

- Call your local transit authority for a free ride to your vaccine appointment. You may need to call in advance to schedule a ride.

- RIDE UNITED NC offers free transportation to and from COVID-19 vaccine appointments for low-income residents.

- Ask your vaccine provider for transportation options. Some have partnered with public transportation or community-based organizations who can provide free rides to vaccine appointments.

Presenter should take people to the local authority page: https://www.ncdot.gov/divisions/public-transit/Documents/NC_public_transit.pdf

Slide 27: What you will get at your vaccine appointment.

- A **fact sheet** that tells you more about the specific COVID-19 vaccine you receive.

- A **vaccination card** that tells you what COVID-19 vaccine you received, the date you received it, and where you received it. Make a back-up of the vaccination card (like taking a photo of it on your phone).

- Ask your vaccine provider about getting started with **v-safe**, a free, smartphone-based tool that uses text messages and online surveys to provide check-ins after you receive your vaccine.

Slide 28: Like many other vaccines, you could have temporary reactions like a sore arm, fever, headache, or feeling tired and achy for a day or two. This could be similar to what you might have experienced after a shingles vaccine. These reactions are temporary (which means they'll go away in a day or two), they are not dangerous, and they are actually a good sign that the vaccine is working in your body the way it's supposed to.

[In case of questions about allergic reactions]:
If people have allergies to ingredients in the two-dose vaccines, then they won't get that vaccine. Anyone who has had a serious allergic reaction to any vaccine or medicine that is injected should talk about the risks and benefits of the vaccine with their doctor. People with allergies to foods, animals, environmental (such as pollen), latex, or medications taken by mouth, or who have family members with past severe allergic reactions can be vaccinated with any of the COVID-19 vaccines currently authorized. So, if you have a peanut allergy, you shouldn't worry about getting vaccinated.

[In case of questions about fainting with J&J]:
In addition, some people experience lightheadedness, nausea or fainting (symptoms of vasovagal syncope) after a vaccination. The CDC recommends the following prevention measures:

- Have a beverage or snack before getting your vaccine
- Sit or lie down after you receive your vaccine
- Breathe slowly and deeply before getting the vaccine and think of something relaxing

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Slide 30: Once you are fully vaccinated—that is two weeks AFTER your final dose of a COVID-19 vaccine—you will be able to do some things that you have probably been missing over the last year:

- You can gather with other fully vaccinated people indoors without wearing a mask.

- You can gather with unvaccinated people from one other household without wearing a mask, but only if no one from the other household is at high-risk for severe COVID-19 illness.

- You do not need to quarantine or get tested if you have been around someone who has COVID-19, unless you develop COVID-19 symptoms. (If you develop symptoms, you will need to get tested and isolate as soon as possible.)

- You can travel in the United States.

Slide 31: As part of North Carolina's effort to encourage more North Carolinians to receive COVID-19 vaccines, Governor Roy Cooper announced in June the $4 Million Summer Cash and College Tuition drawings to motivate those who have not yet been vaccinated — and thank those who have.

Four vaccinated North Carolinians 18 and older will win $1 million each and four North Carolinians ages 12 to 17 will win tuition for post-secondary education.

North Carolinians 18 and over who have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine will be automatically entered into four drawings for a chance to win a $1 million cash prize.

Youth between the ages of 12 and 17 who have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine will be automatically entered into four drawings to win $125,000 towards post-secondary education.

The $125,000 can be used at any post-secondary institution and is awarded in the form of a NC 529 account.

Learn more about the $4 Million Summer Cash and Summer Cash 4 College Drawings at SummerVaxCash.com

Slide 32: Anyone 18+ who gets their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine at a participating location OR who drives someone to get their first dose at a participating location will receive a $25 Summer Card, in the form of a Prepaid Mastercard® at participating locations.

Participating locations can be found at YourSpotYourShot.nc.gov.

Slide 33: What questions do you have for me?